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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 008042

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [ECON](#) [IN](#) [CN](#)

SUBJECT: A COMMUNIST LEADER DISTANCES THE CPI(M) FROM CHINA

REF: A. NEW DELHI 8003

[1](#)B. NEW DELHI 7796

[1](#)C. NEW DELHI 7762

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Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Atul Keshap for reasons 1.4 (B,D)

[1](#)1. (C) Much of the press coverage of the recently concluded visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao commented on the frosty nature of the visit and depicted the nefarious role of the CPI(M) in working on behalf of Chinese interests in India. One of the most outspoken CPI(M) critics was DNA columnist Rajiv Desai, who accused the party of being Chinese "lobbyists" who "worked overtime to ensure Beijing's agenda was fulfilled"(Ref A). In a November 29 meeting with Poloff, Sudhakar Reddy, the National Secretary of the CPI and a senior leader of the CPI parliamentary delegation, commented at length on these allegations. His comments, which allude to private conversations between the CPI(M) leadership and Chinese government officials, as well as debates raging within the inner circle of India's Communists, shed light on the typically hair splitting and suspiciously excessively defensive Communist view on this issue. We provide these insights for INR/B and others who study Indian Communist leadership dynamics.

¶2. (C) Reddy disparaged the press reports alleging that the CPI(M) is a stalking horse for China. He pointed out that as long as Chairman Mao ruled China, the Communist Party of China (CPC) refused to recognize it, preferring to maintain relations with the more radical and Maoist Naxalite groups. During those years, the CPC derided the CPI as a "revisionist" party and the CPI(M) as a "neo-revisionist" party. Reddy also denied that the CPI(M) has given a carte blanche to China, has never criticized it, or wants to import the Chinese political and economic system to India. Reddy maintained that in their private interactions with the Chinese leadership, the CPI(M) leaders, including General Secretary Prakash Karat, and leading ideologue Sitaram

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Yechury, have criticized Chinese economic policies. The CPI(M) leaders purportedly told the Chinese that they were mistaken to make rapid economic growth their principal economic goal, as growth that does not lift the poor out of poverty is a betrayal of Communist principles. The CPI(M) has also complained that the Chinese government has granted virtual monopolies to firms that maintain good connections with the CPC.

¶3. (C) Reddy conceded that the CPI(M) perceived closeness to China has rubbed many in India the wrong way, especially since China "committed aggression" against India in 1962 and its troops "occupied the soil of the Indian homeland." This reflects the ideological issue that resulted in the CPI(M) split from the CPI in the aftermath of the Chinese invasion (Ref A). According to Reddy, the Indian people are not as "anti-China" as the media depicted during and after the Hu Jintao visit. He ascribed the "slanted" reporting regarding China to a cabal of anti-Chinese and anti-Communist journalists, especially in the English language media. Reddy urged poloff to look at the CPI(M) in a different light,

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arguing that the party does not take dictation from China, has no interest in exporting a Chinese-style totalitarian state to India, and is perfectly capable of standing up to China on issues of principal.

¶4. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website:  
(<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)  
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